REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated December 13, 2005. Claims 1 to 56 are pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 11, 22 to 26, 36, 47 and 56 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 56 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,909,602 (Nakai). The rejections are respectfully traversed and the Examiner is requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in light of the following comments.

The present invention relates to an all-in-one apparatus that receives image information from one of various scanning apparatuses and decides which one of various printing apparatuses to transmit the received image to based on a forgery prevention function. In more detail, the apparatus receives information from each scanner and each printing apparatus indicating the presence or absence of a forgery preventing function in the device. Then, when an image is received, the apparatus determines which printing apparatus to send the image to based on whether or not the scanner that transmitted the image has the forgery preventing function.

Referring specifically to the claims, Claim 1 is an image processing apparatus comprising first receiving means that receives information from a first scanning apparatus indicating the presence of a forgery-preventing function in the first scanning apparatus, and receiving information from a second scanning apparatus indicating the absence of a forgery-preventing function in the second scanning apparatus, second receiving means that receives information from a first printing apparatus indicating the presence of a forgery-preventing function in the first printing apparatus, and receiving information from a second printing apparatus indicating the absence of a

forgery-preventing function in the second printing apparatus, and controlling means that controls processing of image data received from one of the first or second scanning apparatuses to send the received image data to one of the first or second printing apparatuses based on the information received by the first receiving means and the information received by the second receiving means.

Claims 22 and 23 are method and computer program claims, respectively, that substantially corresponds to Claim 1.

Claim 11 include features along the lines of Claim 1 but is more specifically directed to an image processing apparatus, comprising first receiving means that receives information from a first scanning apparatus indicating the presence of a forgery-preventing function in the first scanning apparatus, and receiving information from a second scanning apparatus indicating the absence of a forgery-preventing function in the scanning apparatus, second receiving means that receives information from a first printing apparatus indicating the presence of a forgery-preventing function in the first printing apparatus, and receiving information from a second printing apparatus indicating the absence of a forgery-preventing function in the second printing apparatus, inputting means that inputs information related to a selected scanner apparatus for image scanning, and notifying means that notifies a user, based on the information received by the first receiving means, the information received by the second receiving means, and the information input by the input means, of at least one available printing apparatus for which image data can be sent to for printing.

Claims 24 and 25 are method and computer program claims, respectively, that substantially corresponds to Claim 1.

Claim 26 substantially corresponds to Claim 1, but is written in non-means-

plus-function form. Additionally, Claim 36 substantially corresponds to Claim 11, but is written in non-means-plus function form.

Claim 47 also includes features along the lines of Claim 1, but is more specifically directed to an image processing apparatus that communicates with one or more image reading devices and one or more image output devices, comprising first receiving means that receives information indicating whether or not a device has a forgery-preventing judgment capability from each of the one or more image reading devices and each of the one or more image output devices, second receiving means that receives image data read by one of the one or more image reading devices, judging means that judges whether or not the image reading device that reads the image data includes a forgery-preventing judgment capability from the forgery-preventing judgment capability information of the image reading device received by the first receiving means, and controlling means that controls where the image data received by the second receiving means is to be output to in order to output the image data to an appropriate image output device based on a judged result of the judging means and the forgery-preventing judgment capability information of the image output device received by the first receiving means.

Claim 56 is a method claim that substantially corresponds to Claim 47.

The applied art of Nakai is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of the present invention, and in particular, is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of an information processing apparatus having a first receiving means that receives information from a first scanning apparatus indicating the presence of a forgery-preventing function in the first scanning apparatus, and that information from a second scanning apparatus indicating the absence of a forgery-preventing function in the scanning apparatus. The applied art also does not disclose or suggest at least the feature of the

information processing apparatus having a second receiving means that receives information from a first printing apparatus indicating the presence of a forgery-preventing function in the first printing apparatus, and that receives information from a second printing apparatus indicating the absence of a forgery-preventing function in the second printing apparatus. Therefore, Nakai also does not teach the feature of controlling processing of image data received from one of the first or second scanning apparatuses to send the received image data to one of the first or second printing apparatuses based on the information received by the first receiving means and the information received by the second receiving means.

Nakai is seen to disclose a system of copying machines. If a copying machine 93 includes a specimen image judging section, it processes the specimen to determine whether or not the scanned image is copy prohibited. If so, the machine will not perform the copying. Thus, the copying machine 93 of Nakai does not include the claimed first or second receiving means, nor does it control processing to determine which printing apparatus to output the job to.

In another embodiment, if a copying machine 91 is processing a copy job, and the machine 91 does not include the specimen judging section, it transmits the input image to another copying machine 93 that does have the image judging function, together with a request for the machine to judge the input image and to determine whether the image is copy-prohibited. The result of the judgment by machine 93 is provided to the copying machine 91, whereby the copying machine 91 either performs or does not perform the copying based on the result. Therefore, the copying machine 91 of Nakai merely determines whether or not it can perform the judging of the image, and if not, requests that another machine perform the processing instead and then provide a result of the judgment

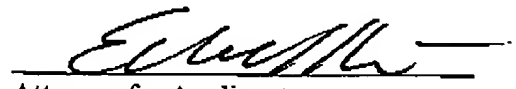
back to the machine 91. Thus, the foregoing processing also fails to teach the invention as claimed, and in particular, fails to teach an apparatus that receives information from a first scanning apparatus indicating the presence of a forgery-preventing function in the first scanning apparatus, that receives information from a second scanning apparatus indicating the absence of a forgery-preventing function in the second scanning apparatus, that receives information from a first printing apparatus indicating the presence of a forgery-preventing function in the first printing apparatus, and that receives information from a second printing apparatus indicating the absence of a forgery-preventing function in the second printing apparatus, and that then controls processing of image data received from one of the first or second scanning apparatuses to send the received image data to one of the first or second printing apparatuses based on the information received by the first receiving means and the information received by the second receiving means.

In view of the foregoing deficiencies of the applied art, all of Claims 1 to 56 are believed to be allowable.

No other matters having been raised, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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